

PRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE FORUM

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday night, I held a health care forum in my district to hear the thoughts and concerns of my constituents as we continue this critical debate on health care reform. There were strong feelings on all sides of the issue, but the important thing is we were able to come together and have a productive forum on the important factors that are central to reforming health care so that we can reduce costs, increase access, expand choice, and strengthen—yes, strengthen—Medicare.

I want to thank Temple Ner Tamid for hosting the forum; Mitch Fox for moderating with such grace; our panelists, Tom McCoy and Max Richtman; and especially the approximately 500 people who cared enough to come together and get involved in this discussion.

As the health care debate continues over the coming weeks, I look forward to sharing with my colleagues in the House on both sides of the aisle the valuable thoughts and ideas that were discussed at Monday's forum.

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PRESIDENT OBAMA REVERSES HIMSELF ON HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during the Presidential campaign, Senator Obama ran an ad attacking Senator Clinton because her "health care plan forces everyone to buy insurance and you pay a penalty if you don't." If that sounds familiar, it should. That's exactly what the Obama administration is now forcing on the American people. What Senator Obama once criticized, President Obama now embraces.

Democrats' health care bills penalize people who don't buy the government's designated kind of health insurance, and the fine or tax can be close to \$2,000 per person. Just as bad, most people who do buy health insurance will pay higher premiums, and seniors, especially, will see their benefits cut according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Senator Obama was right. President Obama is wrong. Why have so few in the national media pointed out the about-face, flip-flop, backtrack, and 180?

OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, the upcoming reauthorization of our surface

transportation programs provides us with a unique opportunity to examine the ways we can maximize the return on our investment of taxpayer dollars we make in our Nation's infrastructure. If we strive for both economic and environmental sustainability, I believe we should support the idea of having this Nation's infrastructure designed to last without maintenance as long as possible and be 100 percent recyclable. The technology to meet these goals exists today, and we will save billions of dollars over time and lighten the financial burden for future generations.

As we work to address the cost of rebuilding our roads, bridges, and transit systems, we can require the use of 75-year maintenance-free and 100 percent recyclable materials. If we do this, we will be able to fund more projects and make critical infrastructure improvements faster.

The technology that exists today to meet all of these goals is galvanized steel. Galvanized steel is made up of naturally occurring zinc bonded to steel, which protects it from erosion for 75 years without maintenance. Steel bridges, sign structures, guide rail, light poles, facilities can benefit from it. This is technology available to us.

DON'T COST MY PATIENTS COVERAGE OR BENEFITS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as a physician, a family physician for over 30 years, I must speak out again on health care. The President promised, promised that if you like what you have you, you can keep it. But it appears, with the current Democrat health plan, this is not true, at least when it comes to seniors.

Both the House and Senate proposals contain billions in cuts to Medicare Advantage, a very popular private insurance program that 25 percent of America's seniors have chosen for themselves. With ObamaCare this, the Greatest Generation, will lose benefits they currently enjoy, another broken promise by the President. Many seniors will be forced to pay for services such as supplemental vision or hearing coverage that was previously covered. Consequently, seniors will be dumped back into the regular Medicare that, according to this plan, will have \$300 billion stripped from it.

The net result of this broken promise for seniors, some of whom are my patients, will be to have substantial reduction in service, care, and benefits.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

(Mr. SCOTT of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, responsible health insurance reform re-

quires a comprehensive approach. For example, health insurance companies often deny coverage if you have a pre-existing condition. But if we require insurance companies to cover preexisting conditions, all Americans must be required to carry health insurance; otherwise, people will just wait until they get sick before they buy insurance. And if all Americans are going to be covered, we must have mandates and taxes to subsidize those who can't afford it.

Furthermore, in most States, there's only one company with an overwhelming market share, and so, without a public option, people in many States would be mandated to buy insurance from a sole-source, for-profit corporation without any limit on what it can charge. You know that's not fair.

So even though there is a consensus that people with preexisting conditions should be able to buy insurance at a reasonable cost, we cannot achieve that goal without mandates, subsidies, and a public option to provide competition. That's why we need comprehensive health insurance reform with a public option.

RECOGNIZING CASEY HILMER

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Casey Hilmer of Cincinnati, Ohio, of the suburb of Indian Hill for finishing fourth in the women's division of the 30th Columbus Marathon.

Casey, running her first marathon, and having no formal marathon training, finished with a time of 2 hours and 54 minutes. This was only 7 minutes behind the overall women's winner. Casey also finished first in her age bracket.

While her fourth place finish is extraordinarily impressive, it is what she overcame that brings me to this floor to celebrate her accomplishment. Ms. Hilmer's finish is made more impressive by what she's had to overcome.

More than 6 years ago, at the age of 13, she was attacked. As she was jogging near her parents' home, Casey was abducted and stabbed four times. Thankfully, this did not stop her from doing what she loves—running.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Casey is a shining example of perseverance and dedication. Casey will not be deterred. I am confident this strong young woman will accomplish every goal on which she sets her mind.

Congratulations, Casey, on your remarkable accomplishment. Perhaps your next goal—the Olympics.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, more evidence is coming in every day that